

## ***Remarks***

Claims 1-25 are pending by this application. Claims 1, 9, 16, 17, and 21-23 are amended to clarify and more particularly indicate the claimed subject matter. New claims 24 and 25 are added. No new matter is included. In view of following comments, allowance of all the rejected claims in the application is respectfully requested.

### ***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112***

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicant traverses this rejection as follows.

The Examiner first alleges that the language "wherein the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions remain selected," found in independent claims 1, 9, 16, 17, 21, 22, and 23, is not specifically described/enabled in Applicant's specification. However, this feature is described and enabled at least by referring to Figures 5 and 6, as well as page 7, line 15 through page 8, line 14.

The Examiner next alleges that the language "simultaneously process," found in independent claims 1, 6, 16, 17, 21, 22, and 23, is not specifically described/enabled in Applicant's specification. While Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's assertion, the claims have been amended to use the specific language found in the specification.

### ***Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103***

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 13, 15-18, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sybex, Inc. "The ABCs of Word 97", Second Edition, pages 10-12 and pages 43-44 ("Sybex") in view of Microsoft Word 97 application "screenshots", 1997, Microsoft Corporation, pages 1-5 ("Word97"). Claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 14, 19, and 20 are rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Sybex

in view of Word97 and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 5,666,552 to Greyson. Applicant traverses these rejections as follows.

**Word97 is not Prior Art**

The Examiner has relied partially on a series of screenshots created using the Microsoft Word application in an attempt to provide a teaching or suggestion of various claim features. The Examiner asserts that since the Microsoft Word application used has a copyright date of 1983-1997, this qualifies the created screenshots as prior art. However, the actual screenshots appear to be created on a date after the filing of the present invention. In fact, they appear to be created solely because of the application. The fact that the Microsoft Word *application* existed before the filing date is not relevant in determining whether the Word97 *document* is prior art. Since the screenshots were not created prior to the filing date of the application, these screenshots do not qualify as prior art.

**None of the Cited References Teach or Suggest Every Claim Feature**

Even if Word97 could be considered prior art, which applicants maintain it is not, no combination of the cited references teach or suggest every feature of the present invention. In an exemplary embodiment, the system and method of the present invention enables a user to process target information when the target information regions are noncontiguous without having to select and process each of the noncontiguous target information regions separately (See page 2, lines 24-27). The invention enables a user to select text when a position indicator is moved in one direction and to deselect text when a position indicator is manipulated in a second direction (See page 2, lines 28-30). Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Microsoft Word does not possess these features.

Independent claims 1, 9, 16, 17, 21, and 22, as amended, recite the features of selecting a continuous target information region, deselecting a portion of a selected continuous target information region to create two non-contiguous target information

regions that remain selected, and processing the two selected associated noncontiguous target information regions according to a selected function, wherein the deselected portion is not processed according to the selected function, among other things.

For example, as depicted in Figures 3 and 6, and described on page eight of the specification, a user of the present invention may select a portion of text for processing. As depicted in Figure 3, the user has selected "The quick brown fox jumped over the fence," and the user may now select an option to print this selected text. The user may then, as depicted in Figure 6, deselect a portion of the selected text, such as the word "quick." The remaining portions of the phrase previously selected ("The" and "brown fox jumped over the fence") remain selected. The user may then process this selected text, for example, by copying it (see page 8, lines 5-10). At least these features are not disclosed by the cited references.

The Examiner relies on the combination of Sybex and Word97 in rejecting the claims. Sybex appears to be a user's manual for using the Microsoft Word 97 program. At best, Sybex appears to teach that a user can select a portion of a document and process the selected portion by applying formatting, such as bold or italics, to the selected portion of the document. However, Sybex does not teach or suggest processing two selected non-contiguous target information regions because Sybex does not teach or suggest creating two non-contiguous target information regions by deselecting a portion of a selected region. In fact, the Examiner admits that Sybex does not explicitly disclose "deselect[ing] at least one portion of the continuous target information region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions" (Office Action, page 4) and relies on Word97 to overcome this deficiency.

Word97 appears to be a series of screenshots created by the Examiner. Text is provided (i.e., "Please read the message below.", see page 2), text is selected (i.e., highlighted, see page 2), formatting is applied to the selected text (i.e., bolding, see page 3), text is unselected (see page 4), a selected portion of the previously selected text is again selected (i.e., highlighted "the", see page 4), and the formatting (i.e.,

bolding, see page 4) is removed from the re-selected portion of the text. The Examiner alleges that the bolded "Please read" and bolded "message below." that is separated by the unbolded "the" creates two noncontiguous target information regions (see page 5). Even if this is true, the Word97 screenshots fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

The relevant claims recite processing the two selected associated noncontiguous target information regions according to a selected function, wherein the deselected portion is not processed according to the selected function. Both Sybex and Word97, alone and in combination with each other, fail to teach or suggest deselecting a portion of a continuous target information region while the remaining portions of the continuous target information region remain selected (thus creating two associated non-contiguous regions) and processing only the selected regions according to a selected function. Microsoft Word does not teach or suggest this feature.

In particular, it does not appear from Sybex or the Word97 screenshots, that the user is provided with the option of processing text according to a selected function (i.e. print, copy, cut, etc.) for only the bolded words "Please read" and "message below." illustrated on page 5 of Word97. In fact, these words are not selected (i.e., highlighted). As such, they can not be processed together. To process any portion of the text presented in the screenshot on page 5 of Word97, a user need to re-select both portions separately (i.e., "Please read" and "message below.").

By contrast, applying the claimed invention to the Examiner's example provided in the Word97 screenshots, a user could generate two selected portion that include "Please read" and "message below" (i.e., both being highlighted together), and processing the selected portions according to a selected function, wherein the deselected portion (i.e., "the") would not receive the processing. As such, the claimed invention enables both selected portions to be processed using a selected function at the same time. In contrast, the Examiner's example would require the bolded words "Please read" to be selected and processed separately from the bolded words

"message below." Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 9, 16, 17, 21, and 22 are patentable over the cited references.

Dependent claims 2, 5-7, 10, 13, 15, and 18 depend from and add additional features to one of independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 17. Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, these claims are patentable over Sybex and Word97.

Dependent claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 14, 19, and 20 depend from and add additional features to one of independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 17. The Examiner relies on Greyson to overcome the deficiencies of Sybex and Word97. However, neither Sybex, Word97, nor Greyson, alone or in combination with one another, teach or suggest deselecting a portion of a selected continuous target information region to create at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions that remain selected and processing the two non-contiguous target information regions according to a selected function, wherein the deselected portion is not processed. Thus, claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 14, 19, and 20 are patentable over Sybex, Word97, and Greyson.

Regarding claim 23, none of the applied references alone or in combination with one another disclose accepting input to select a first target information region, accepting input to select a second continuous target information region to form two noncontiguous target information regions, **and** accepting input to process the selected non-contiguous target information regions according to a selected function. Thus, claim 23 is allowable for the reasons described above.

Regarding new independent claim 24, none of the cited references alone or in combination with one another disclose accepting input to process a selected noncontiguous target information region wherein the noncontiguous target information region exists in two or more documents or applications. See page 8, lines 10-11. As such, claim 24 is allowable over the cited references. New dependent claim 25 provides additional features not previously claimed. Claim 25 is allowable over the cited references at least based on its dependency on claim 24 and the additional features it provides.

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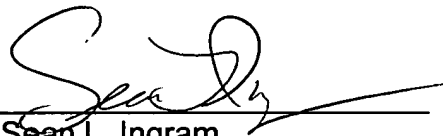
**Application Serial No.: 09/425,177**  
**Attorney Docket No.: 042846-0312828**  
**Reply Accompanying RCE**

A full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Respectfully submitted,

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**00909**

  
Sean L. Ingram  
Registration No.: 48,283  
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP  
1600 Tysons Blvd.  
McLean, VA 22102  
703-905-2107